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487

Stage.	No.	Height above the sea in feet.	Miles from last stage.
Brought forward	..	..	108
Sanī	11	11,560	9
Padam (chief place of Zānskār)	12	11,370	9
Thondhe	13	..	9
Zanglā	14	..	12
Namtse	15	13,050	13
Pāngūtse	16	..	10
Nirā	17	11,850	10
Yalchung	18	12,730	6
Phutāksa	19	13,900	16
Honupatta	20	12,400	12
Wanla	21	10,900	12
Lāmayūrū	22	11,520	6
Leh (see Route 12, Nos. 15 to 19)	27	11,500	66
			298

The following Passes are crossed:

Between stages	8 and	9, Umāsi Lā or Bardhār ..	17,370 feet.
"	14 "	15, Chelang Labbo	14,850 "
"	16 "	17, Nirā Pass	16,000 "
"	18 "	19, Singbe Pass	16,600 "
"	19 "	20, a Pass	16,200 "
"	21 "	22, a Pass	12,500 "

The road is not fit for laden animals, and it would be difficult to load a horse along it, but this has been done. It is open for four or five months of the year only.

ROUTE 20.—*From Pālampūr in Kāngra by Kulu to Leh.*

(28 marches: 357 miles.)

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[543]

Pālampūr is a newly-founded town, about 4000 feet above the sea, in the centre of the Kāngra tea-district. A fair is there held each autumn, which was established to attract Yārkandī merchants from Leh by this route. In some years it has been attended by them, but, partly from irregularity in the arrival of the Yārkand caravan at Leh, and partly that this road is not open late in the year, the fair has not answered this purpose so well as was expected by its founders; still it remains a local fair of some importance.

Pālampūr is about 96 miles from Jālandhar, the nearest railway station; a cart-road joins the two places.

657 To insure against food scarcity that had previously
623 threatened the village areas in Kashmir Province, the *panchayats* in Kashmir Province collected in S. 1999, 60,000 *kharwars* of *shali* and maize on *khush-kharid* basis for use in times of scarcity.

With a view to minimizing the migration of unskilled workers from Kashmir Valley to the plains in the winter for work and finding suitable productive work in the State itself for the men who migrate and as near their homes as possible, the Rural Development Department was entrusted with investigating the matter and preparing lists of men who migrate and the kinds of work suited to them. With the help of the *panchayats*, the Department was able to submit the details to the Government within a very short time of a month and a half. On the basis of this information, the Government appointed a committee for devising schemes calculated to provide labour to such labourers. As a result of the recommendations of the committee, Government sanctioned several schemes for providing employment to large numbers of people.

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656 Nor have the interests of the masses of the urban population which include manufacturers and traders, artisans and craftsmen, owners of house-boats and boatmen and skilled and unskilled labourers been lost
658 sight of. Primary education for boys has been made free and compulsory in the cities and important towns. As recommended by the Glancy Commission, the fees previously imposed on visitors to the Mughal Gardens near
651 Srinagar were abolished. Taxes on boat-men have in certain cases been reduced or remitted, and sites for mooring of house-boats have been provided either at
441 cheap rates or free of rent. An industrial exhibition has been held at Srinagar annually since 1929. The
● 543 exhibition attracts a large number of people including visitors, with the result that not only have there been greater sales, but there has been marked improvement in the variety and the finish of the goods produced. In order to provide assistance in the marketing of goods manufactured in the State, an Industrial Museum and Sales Emporium was opened at Srinagar towards the end of 1941. A similar institution has been started at Jammu also.

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5. Saffron Oil.
6. Extraction of Jasamin, Narcissus and Lilac essences.
7. Skimia Oil (Scent).
8. Casein preparation.
9. Paints and Varnishes.
10. Honey Purification.
11. Black board chalk Manufacture.
12. Starch Manufacture.

[288]

The famous Silk Industry of the State continued to function although its income experienced a considerable fall in the latter half of the decade due to the extraordinary fall in the price of the silk.

472 654

Cottage Industries.—A peripatetic demonstration party employed by Government has done useful work by introducing improved fly-shuttle looms and teaching new patterns and designs to the village weavers. The solicitude of Government for the improvement and welfare of the cottage workers is sufficiently exhibited by the handsome grant of Rs. 75,000 sanctioned for granting small loans to the workers. Further proposals for State aid to industries and establishment of an industrial and commercial bank are also under consideration of the Government.

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Birthday Exhibition.—The holding of an annual exhibition at Srinagar of the Industrial and Agricultural products of the State on the auspicious occasion of His Highness' birthday has served to give a wide publicity to the indigenous arts and manufactures through the large mass of visitors who annually flock to the Happy Valley to escape the rigorous heat of the plains as also to enjoy the beauties of nature in Kashmir.

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The department has prepared a Statistical Atlas for the State and is engaged in bringing out other useful publications such as the Statistical Abstract, Development Map and a Commercial Directory. A clear proof of the spread of industrial atmosphere will be found in the formation of the following five Joint Stock Companies during the decade while formerly the business on Joint Stock System was much less known than practised in the State :—

	Share Capital. Rs.
1. The Dogra Commercial and Industrial Company Limited, Jammu ...	300,000
2. Jammu and Kashmir Commercial Syndicate Limited ...	50,000
3. The Lakshmi Trading Company Limited, Srinagar ...	25,000
4. Kashmir Textiles Limited, Srinagar ...	100,000
5. Apas Limited, Srinagar ...	20,000

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245 654 *Silviculture.*—Great progress was made during this decade in silviculture. The establishment of a specialist Working Plan Circle enabled all the valuable commercial forests to be brought under modern methods of management, thus enabling the forests to be fully utilized without impairing their future productivity. Silvicultural research was undertaken for the first time and a special Research Division was formed.

[313] [314] *Commercial Development.*—Considerable progress has been shown in developing the commercial side of the department's activities. The out-turn of timber rose from 11 millions c.ft. to nearly 29 millions. The markets for minor products were developed and extended. The production of crude resin rose from about 4,000 maunds to 55,000 maunds greatly adding to the prosperity of the people in parts of Jammu Province where resin tapping has now become a well established village industry. Kashmir Artemisia has been brought under commercial working and now contributes considerably to the world's supply of Santonin.

General.—The expansion of the Forest Department's activities have very largely benefitted the people of the State. Not only has the larger income produced by the department enabled the Government to spend more money on social services such as education and medicine, but the increasing out-turn of produce has provided a great deal of work for the inhabitants many of whom now rely on forest works to enable them to pay their land revenues.

241 242 **26. Agriculture.**—A glance at Imperial Table X (Occupation), will show that by far the major portion of the inhabitants of the State depend on agriculture for their levelihood. The prosperity of trade and transport is also indissolubly linked with the bright prospects of agriculture for if the purchasing power of the masses goes low on any account a season of depression sets in the trading section of the community. The activities of the Agriculture Department in promoting the interests of farmers by introduction of better varieties of seed, more scientific instruments, better manures and last but not least by awakening a new interest in agriculture by overcoming the apathy of ages are particularly relevant to the Census Report. Any invention or discovery which can double the yield of crops in this country is bound to multiply to the same extent the mouths that feed on it. The activities of the Agriculture Department of the State are, however, unfortunately concentrated in the Kashmir valley only, and the province of Jammu has not derived any material advantage from its existence so far. The extension of the department's activities to that province on a larger scale is apparently necessary.

In the Kashmir valley the Agriculture Department maintains two experimental farms where several varieties of agriculture and vegetable seeds imported from India and foreign countries like America, England, Russia, Italy are tried and recommended for adoption to cultivators after the experiments have met with success on the Government farms. In some cases acclimatised seeds have multiplied the yield by 50 per cent. About 169 varieties of foreign vegetables are also grown on the farm. The seed is distributed twice a year in the valley and demands from other places are met by post.

241 177 *Implements.*—Several implements such as Meston ploughs, Horse Hoe, Bar Harrow, Chaff Cutter, Maize Huller and Sheller, Automatic Seed Drill have been introduced and though a few only of the zamindars who are enterprising enough have come forward to purchase them and try their utility on their farms an innovation has been started which might prove of considerable value in the future.

543 *Shows.*—Agricultural shows used to be held on the occasions of seed distribution and have now come to form a part of the Industrial Exhibition held annually in Srinagar. The Agriculture Department occupies a separate section where several varieties of different agricultural and horticultural products are exhibited besides the implements and provide a source of valuable information and instruction to the people. In 1979 an agricultural show was held at Jammu

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on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Besides imparting education by "shows" Departmental bulletins were also published and circulated. The bulletins dealt with the sowing of Maize, Groundnuts, Soybeams and Beams and the removal of certain crop diseases. 543

Manure.—The Agriculture Department has tried several manures on the farm to test their utility on different crops. 242 654

27. Horticulture.—The department maintains fruit plant nurseries including ornamental plants. Fruit canning is receiving attention though the industry is still in its incipient stage. A firm known as Kashmir Fruit Preserve Works has been authorized to manufacture fruit beverages, apple-brandy, grape wine and ciders etc. A new nursery has been opened at Achhabal and experiments regarding stock and scion compatibility have been started in all the nurseries and scion wood from Australia has been introduced. The department has been distributing about a lac of young plants annually to the zamindars without any charge.

The only disquieting feature of the decade has been the appearance of San Jose Scale disease which has inflicted a very heavy damage on the fruit industry of Kashmir. Remedial and control measures have been adopted to get rid of this pest. [134]

28. Veterinary.—For maintenance of agricultural prosperity the maintenance of live-stock in health is essential. Previous to 1923 the system of inoculation did not exist and consequently the mortality among cattle was heavy. There are now 18 Veterinary Hospitals in the State and the outbreaks of rinderpest, Hæmorrhagic Septicaemia and other epidemic diseases were successfully dealt with on modern scientific lines and many animal lives saved. Facilities have been provided by the department for brining to its notice the outbreak of epidemics and even individual patients. For improvement of cattle several schemes have been under contemplation and awaiting to be put into effect as funds permit. The scrub bull pest is being removed by castration of the scrub bulls. The enclosed table shows the variation in live-stock during the last decade. 232